RAY LOPEZ Councilman District 6



CITY OF SANANTONIO



Ray Lopez
City Council District 6

Dear District 6 Constituents and Friends.

It's all about SERVICE... To that end, my staff and I have embarked upon an effort to document all projects, tasks, and events into a quarterly newsletter for mail distribution as well as producing a bi-weekly e-Blast. These two communications are intended to inform the community directly of tasks undertaken by my office, current city projects, policies, celebrations, milestones, and community outreach. If you are not on the e-mail blast or would like to add someone to the list, please contact us at district6@sanantonio.gov.

Budgets are always tough...Our personal home budgets or those that have larger numbers associated, like the city budget, the approach is similar for both. "We spend our moneys in the areas where we place our value". Taking care of our Children and Seniors ranked very high on my list, also, insuring that City Services were not negatively affected and in fact, increase the services in critical areas. I am proud to report that the budget was balanced.

Working closely with my council colleagues and our City Manager, we were able to fund critical programs and even expanded some others. We are retaining all city employees so that city services can continue to be addressed, we are hiring fifty new police officers into the communities policing program to insure a safer community and we are addressing programs for kids and seniors aggressively.

Economic Development is a vital indicator of a good community. Working closely with the Westside Development Corporation (WDC) to generate grants for businesses as well as focusing on relationships with the Education Community to insure we build bridges from school to work has also been a key component.

Graffiti is of concern to the entire city. I am also proud to report that our staff is in the process of facilitating a collaborative effort between city staff, homeowner associations, schools, active neighborhoods and community members to remove graffiti from our streets.

We continue to work both sides of the Graffiti equation... Abatement and Prevention. To that end, we continue to work closely with various SAPD surveillance teams for stronger enforcement. Much is being done, but there is more work to do!

Constituent communications and access have been a vital part of our mission. This summer we kicked off our Summer Outreach Program 2009 where we spend the day at various neighborhood sites addressing specific concerns, making on the spot field visits and utilizing our Council Action Team. From the Great Northwest HOA, to Los Jardines NA as well as working various projects with Cable-Westwood NA in the John Jay area, we have worked hard to increase the outreach. We also held a Budget meeting, a hearing on the CPS Energy issue and did our best to make sure YOU were informed.

The impact of this outreach achieved the results that were needed. Speed bumps, demolition of vacant houses, school signs, parking issue resolution, cleaner parks and gang enforcement issues to mention a few.

In keeping with these efforts, it is our goal to ensure an open line of communication between my office and the community and this newsletter is a main component of those efforts. Here you will find events, updates to current and proposed projects, community efforts to better our city and the overall pulse of the district.

Sincerely in service,

Ray Lopez,

CITY COUNCILMAN, District 6

What's Inside...

Tom Slick Trail Clean Up2
Councilman Lopez' Council Committees2
Save the Date District 6 Town Hall Meeting2
Meeting with SA Police Department3
District 6 Back to School Event
SNAP Mobile Clinic in District 64
Cable Westwood Extreme Target Sweep4
District 6 Community Budget Hearing4
School Flashers at

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Stafford Elementary4

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Tom Slick Trail Clean Up

At our recent Tom Slick Park Public Meeting held July 14th, members of the Meadow Village Neighborhood Association attended the meeting to go over the Schematic Design of the Park funded under the 2007 Bond program. The funding is used for basic park improvements. One major request that was immediately completed was cleaning out the creek bed before heavy rains. Trash and other debris had accumulated through out the months and it had become an eyesore and dangerous for

those residents using the park daily. Parks and Recreation Special Projects Manager, Veronica Moreno and her crew: Richard Gatlin, Victor Valdez, Cindy Forey and Raymond Estrada took immediate action on this task. Work was completed in a matter of days and much to the delight of those residents that use the park. Additional work is slated for the park in the future. We will keep you informed of future changes to the park.

Before Photos





After Photos





Council Committees Councilman Lopez Serves On...

- Intergovernmental Relations Committee (IGR)
- Economic and Community Development Committee
- Public Safety Committee
- SA Housing Trust Fund
- Community Action Advisory Board (CAAB)
- Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
- Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG)
- City of SA Disparity Study

Save the Date District 6 Town Hall Meeting

What: D6 Senior Center Stakeholders'

Meeting with Councilman Ray Lopez

When: Monday, October 26th, 6:30 pm Where: Edgewood Academy Art Gallery

607 SW 34th St.

More: Councilman Lopez would like to meet

with interested constituents regarding our new District 6 proposed Senior

Site.

For more information please contact our District 6 Field Office staff at (210) 679-6506

Meeting with SA Police Department

On Friday, August 14, Councilman Lopez and staff met with Deputy Chief Ray Torres as well as SAPD Officers from the Deco Storefront, Commerce Storefront and West Substation area. All together, we had 15 SAPD Officers in attendance. Initially, it was a meet and greet session but quickly turned into a sharing of information and addressing of the needs of the District 6 Community. In addition, it was expressed by the Councilman the critical need to establish relationships and exchange of information involving SAPD, school district police and college/university police. This full exchange would positively impact our District 6 community.

The immediate concern is Back to School for the children of our community. Proactive plans were discussed regarding the changing traffic patterns of some campuses and the need for additional signage, blinking caution lights, and crosswalks. Councilman Lopez expressed his gratitude to our police officers for their time and





their on-going willingness to assist residents and schools in creating a safe community environment.

Also, discussed were the federal stimulus funds the city of San Antonio was awarded as one of 1,000 cities across the country to receive funding from a \$1 billion federal grants program to hire additional police officers. San Antonio will gain more than \$10.3 million to hire 50 new police officers, which is the largest amount in Texas and one of the largest in the nation. The grants will provide 100% of the 50 new officer's salary for a total of three years and also requires departments to retain the officers for a fourth year.

District 6 Back to School Event

With the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year already upon us, Councilman Lopez, like many others, set out to assist students and schools in District 6 with the back to school supply back pack giveaway.

Working closely with area schools in Edgewood and Northside school districts, six elemenatry schools were selected to receive the much needed school supplies in a time where families are struggling to make ends meet.

District 6 staff contacted school district central office officials in order to work directly with them and the school's counseling staff to target 10 elementary students per grade level. Each school was designated a particular time for those students to come and collect their backpack full of school supplies. A representative (counselor or principal) from each school assisted with the distribution.

The school supply event was also well represented by other city departments such as Animal Care Services, Code Compliance, DCI

(Early Childhood) and the Graffiti Abatement department in addition to the San Antonio Food Bank that provided valuable information to those attending.

It should also be noted that along with each site receiving 50 backpacks with school supplies, other departments of the school were assisted, with some getting composition books for their writing program and others received valuable supplies for their (PPCD) special education classes.

Even though the event was a success, it still continues, to the extent that the SAFFE officers also were given backpacks with school supplies in which they would be used as they work with the youth in the community.



Ray Lopez Councilman District 6 | PAGE 3

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SNAP Mobile Clinic in District 6

On August 13, 2009, the SNAP Mobile Clinic, which was sponsored by Animal Care Services of the City of San Antonio, held a very successful event at the Guerra Library at which time 14 dogs and 5 cats were spayed or neutered. This was a great asset for the community.



Cable Westwood Extreme Target Sweep

The City of San Antonio, Extreme Target Sweep Program which is part of the Housing and Neighborhood Services Department under the supervision of Director David D. Garza, and Ronnie Guest, Special Project Coordinator along with various city departments have been concentrating their efforts in the Cable Westwood area and working closely with neighborhood association president Bonnie Weed. Other city departments such as Public Works (Jeanette Morin), Code Enforcement (Yolanda Alvarez & Linda Pressley), SAFEE, ACS and Health have working hard to complete the various task that the area brings.





DISTRICT 6 CITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

District 6 Community Budget Hearing

Councilman Ray Lopez hosted an informational session on the FY 2010 proposed City budget on Monday, August 24, 2009 at the Northside Activity Center. A presentation was given by City Manager Sheryl Sculley. The District 6 community was given an opportunity to provide their input and become a part of the budget process for fiscal year 2010.



School Flashers at Stafford Elementary

Councilman Lopez along with Dr. Elizabeth Garza, Superintendent for Edgewood Independent School District, & City of San Antonio Public Works Department, were on hand to unveil the recently constructed school zone flashers in front of Stafford Elementary School, 611 SW 36th Street. Councilman Lopez would like to remind drivers to slow down in school zones.

